Title: Need to strictly implement the provisions of the law banning dancing of bears.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA): Sir, the World Society for Protection of Animals published a comprehensive report on the hardships suffered by dancing bears in India in its autumn issue of Animals, 1998. The article highlights, with photographs, how the bears in India are trained through a regime of pain and starvation. The unfortunate animals endure long hours in heat, dust and noise, all for the entertainment of visiting tourists and others. Most of them live brief and painful lives before dying due to disease. The journal claims that the dancing bears live a life of five to eight years whereas their wild counterparts live for 30 to 35 years.

Scores of animal lovers across the globe wrote to me in recent months and reminded me that a country like India which has rich traditions of compassion for animals can hardly afford the barbaric practice of dancing bears and they pleaded, most passionately, to ban this barbaric practice.

I make an earnest appeal to this august House and to the Government of India to not only ban this barbaric practice of entertainment, but physically see the bears back in the jungles and give alternate livelihood to those who indulge in this cruel practice.